

Appl. No. 09/848,982
Amendment After Final Rejection

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of text equivalencing from a query string of characters comprising:

- modifying the query string using a predetermined set of heuristics;
- performing a character-by-character comparison of the modified query string with at least one known string of characters in a corpus in order to locate a match; and
- responsive to not finding an exact match, performing the steps of:
 - forming a plurality of sub-strings of characters from the query string, the sub-strings having varying lengths such that at least two of the formed sub-strings differ in length; and
 - using an information retrieval technique on the sub-strings formed from the query string to identify a known string of characters equivalent to the query string.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the information retrieval technique further comprises:

- weighting the sub-strings;
- scoring known strings of characters; and
- retrieving information associated with a known string having the highest score.

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Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising, responsive to the highest score being greater than a first threshold, automatically accepting the known string having the highest score as an exact match.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising, responsive to the highest score being less than a second threshold and greater than a first threshold, presenting the known string having the highest score to a user for manual confirmation.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising, responsive to the highest score being less than a second threshold and greater than a third threshold, presenting the known string having the highest score to a user to select the equivalent string.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein forming a plurality of sub-strings of characters comprises successively extending sub-strings based on frequency of occurrence in the modified query string.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the query string is selected from the group consisting of a song title, a song artist, an album name, a book title, an author's name, a book publisher, a genetic sequence, and a computer program.

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Claim 8. (Presented Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined set of heuristics comprises removing whitespace from the query string.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined set of heuristics comprises removing a portion of the query string.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined set of heuristics comprises replacing a symbol in the query string with an alternate representation for the symbol.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising storing a database entry indicating that the query string is an equivalent of the identified known string.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A computer implemented system for text equivalencing from a query string of characters comprising:

- a heuristics module for modifying the query string using a predetermined set of heuristics;
- a comparator module, coupled to the heuristics module, for performing a character-by-character comparison of the modified query string with at least one known string of characters in a corpus in order to find a match;

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a sub-string formation module, coupled to the comparator module, for, responsive to not finding an exact match, forming a plurality of sub-strings of characters from the query string, the sub-strings having varying lengths such that at least two of the formed sub-strings differ in length; and

an information retrieval module, coupled to the sub-string formation module, for performing an information retrieval technique on the sub-strings formed from the query string to identify a known string of characters equivalent to the query string.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the information retrieval module further comprises:

a weight module for weighting the sub-strings;
a score module for scoring known strings of characters; and
a retrieval module, coupled to the weight and score modules, for retrieving in-information associated with the known string having the highest score.

Claim 14. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising an accept module, coupled to the retrieval module, for accepting the information retrieved as an exact match for the highest score greater than a first threshold.

Claim 15. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising an accept module, coupled to the retrieval module, for presenting the information retrieved to a user for manual

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confirmation for the highest score less than a first threshold and greater than a second threshold.

Claim 16. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising an accept module, coupled to the retrieval module, for presenting the information retrieved to the user as a set of options for a user to select for the highest score less than a second threshold and greater than a third threshold.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the sub-string formation module forms a plurality of substrings of characters by successively extending substrings based on frequency of occurrence in the modified query string.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the query string is selected from the group consisting of a song title, a song artist, an album name, a book title, and author's name, a book publisher, a genetic sequence, and a computer program.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the predetermined set of heuristics comprises removing whitespace from the query string.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the heuristics module comprises a removal module for removing a portion of the query string.

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Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the heuristics module comprises a replacement module for replacing a symbol in the query string with an alternate representation for the symbol.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 further comprising a database update module for storing a database entry indicating that the query string is an equivalent of the identified known string.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable code for performing text equivalencing from a query string of characters comprising:
computer-readable code adapted to modify the query string using a predetermined set of heuristics;
computer-readable code adapted to perform a character-by-character comparison of the modified query string with at least one known string of characters in a corpus in order to locate a match; and
computer-readable code adapted to, responsive to not finding an exact match:
form a plurality of sub-strings of characters from the query string, the sub-strings having varying lengths such that at least two of the formed sub-strings differ in length; and to
use an information retrieval technique on the sub-strings formed from the query string to identify a known string of characters equivalent to the query string.

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Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the information retrieval technique further comprises:

- computer-readable code adapted to weight the sub-strings;
- computer-readable code adapted to score known strings of characters; and
- computer-readable code adapted to retrieve information associated with a known string having the highest score.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, further comprising computer-readable code, responsive to the highest score being greater than a first threshold, adapted to automatically accept the known string having the highest score as an exact match.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, further comprising computer-readable ~~code~~ code, responsive to the highest score being less than a second threshold and greater than a first threshold, adapted to present the known string having the highest score to a user for manual confirmation.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, further comprising computer-readable code, responsive to the highest score being less than a second threshold and greater than a third threshold, adapted to present the known string having

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the highest score to a user to select the equivalent string of characters.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein computer-readable code adapted to form a plurality of sub-strings of characters comprises computer-readable code adapted to successively extend sub-strings based on frequency of occurrence in the modified query string.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the query string selected from a group consisting of a song title, a song artist, an album name, a book title, an author's name, a book publisher, a genetic sequence, and a computer program.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the predetermined set of heuristics comprises removing whitespace from the query string.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the predetermined set of heuristics comprises removing a portion of the query string.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the predetermined set of heuristics comprises replacing a symbol in the query string with an alternate

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representation for the symbol.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23 further comprising computer-readable code adapted to store a database entry indicating that the query is an equivalent of the identified known string.

Claim 34. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for performing text equivalencing from a query string of characters comprising:

- a modifying means for modifying the query string-using a predetermined set of heuristics;
- a comparator means for performing a character-by-character comparison of the modified query string with at least one known string of characters in a corpus in order to locate a match;
- a formation means for, responsive to not finding an exact match, forming a plurality of sub-strings of characters from the query string, the sub-strings having varying lengths such that at least two of the formed sub-strings differ in length; and
- an information retrieval means for identifying a known string of characters equivalent to the query string.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the information retrieval means further comprises:

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a weight means for weighting the sub-strings;

a score means for scoring known strings of characters; and

a retrieval means for retrieving information associated with the known string having the highest score.